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From: Jerry Morris [<mailto:strangler00@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Sunday, March 01, 2009 11:36 PM

To: MLPAComments

Subject: To Whom it May Concern...

I am just a regular guy who likes to fish. Like so many other regular guys who I see when I ride the boats at the SoCal landings, I prefer to fish in the Saltwater. Now, I understand that our local islands and reefs and fish habitat in our local waters is being so depleted of fish that an act has been legislated, or is being legislated which will close or seriously restrict our local waters to ensure the survival of the species that are being negatively impacted by fishing. When looking at it in simple terms it makes sense, but it is not simple. I do not believe that we need to close areas to sportfishing to save the fish.

You see, I'm also one of those regular guys who like to fish in freshwater. One of the first rivers I encountered which required artificial barbless only lures was the stretch of the Owens River below the Pleasant Valley Dam. I seem to recall that some of that water is catch and release only, as are many other streams and rivers in California. I also seem to recall that some of those waterways have slot limits, when fish are allowed to be taken. Unless I am mistaken, those fisheries have not been negatively impacted from sportfishing. In fact, catch and release has helped to ensure the survival of trout in those rivers for everyone. Can't we do the same in our part of the Pacific Ocean? Artificially only, catch and release, slot limits, depth limits, they're all good ideas.

We have options, don't we? We can allow sportfishing and protect the species, can't we? Don't we have the technology and ingenuity to overcome this hurdle without closures?

I say we can, and I say we should.

Sincerely,

Jerry Morris